U.S. Defector Claims CIA Tried to Have Nehru Replaced

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. — (UPI) — An American defector and self-styled ex-spy claimed Tuesday that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) once tried to replace the late Indian Premiere Jawaharlal Nehru with a more pro-American politician.

John Smith of Quincy, Mass., also contended that the CIA incited the Naga tribe to revolt in India to stir up trouble between India and Pakistan during Nehru's regime.

And he named at least two Indian military officers who he said worked for the CIA and passed information to Smith himself during his alleged career as a CIA agent in New Delhi.

Smith's assertions are bejng run in serial form in the weekly Literary Gazette. Some observers suggested that they were being used by the Russians to undermine Indian - American relations.

Smith has not been seen by any Western officials, but the State Department has said a man answering his description resigned from the U.S. Foreign Service in 1959 after nine years as a $107-a-week communications clerk in Pretoria, South Africa, New Delhi and Vienna, Austria.

Smith said the CIA was instructed by Washington to "ensure a key position for (Indian military officials) who leaned to the United States."

These officers, in turn, according to Smith, could bring into office "a determined person cabable of giving a new direction to India which would suit the interests of the United States."

Smith said that a Gen. Bannerji, "a former Indian military attache in Washington," and one of his subordinates, Col. E. T. Sen, passed Indian military information tothe CIA in New Delhi in 1956.

Smith claimed that the CIA preyed on dissatisfaction with the policies of Nehru to recruit high Indian officers for intelligence work.